

In re Appl. No. 09/034,336

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cont* agent contains at least about 20 w/w% trehalose on a dry solid basis.

Please enter the following new claim:

32. (New) The method according to claim 5 wherein said inhibitory agent contains at least one of pullulan and cyclodextrin.

32 33. (New) A method for inhibiting the decrease of naturally occurring active-oxygen-eliminating activity in a fresh plant in need thereof when the fresh plant is sliced or disrupted, or when an edible part of the fresh plant is disrupted, which comprises a step of

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X* homogeneously incorporating, in an aqueous system, at least 1% of an inhibitory agent based on said fresh plant or said edible part on a dry solid basis, wherein said inhibitory agent has an oxygen-eliminating activity, said inhibitory agent consisting of an effective amount of trehalose and optionally at least one member selected from the group consisting of pollutant and cyclodextrin, and said inhibitory agent contains at least 20 w/w% trehalose on a dry solids basis.

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34. (New) The method according to claim 33 wherein said inhibitory agent contains at least one of pullulan and cyclodextrin.

35. (New) The method according to claim 33 wherein said plant is in a juicy form.

36. (New) The method according to claim 33 wherein said method further comprises a sterilization step.
